

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 NEA-07 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 /033 W

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R 061547Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 804

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 8319

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (SOLARZ, STEPHEN)

SUBJECT: CODEL SOLARZ

REF: STATE 294995

1. EMBASSY WELCOMES VISIT CODEL COLARZ TO DAMASCUS. WE CONCUR IN EMBASSY AMMAN' S SUGGESTION THAT TRAVEL FROM DAMASCUS TO AMMAN DECEMBER 27 BE VIA CAR WITH EXCHANGE TO EMBASSY AMMAN CAR AT BORDER. EXACT TIME CAN BE SET AFTER CODEL ARRIVES DAMASCUS. AMBASSADOR AND MRS. MURPHY INVITE CODEL TO STAY AT RESIDENCE.

2. CHRISTMAS DAY IS OFFICIAL SYRIAN HOLIDAY SO NOT APPOINTMENTS POSSIBLE DECEMBER 25. REGARDING MEETING REQUESTED BY CODEL (REFTEL), WE WILL REQUEST APPOINTMENTS WITH PRESIDENT ASAD, FONMIN KHADDAM, DEFENSE MINISTER TLAS AND DEPUTY MINISTER JAMIL, BAATH PARTY NATIONAL COMMAND, AND BRITISH AMBASSADOR. CODEL SHOULD BE INFORMED, HOWEVER, THAT NEITHER DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICIALS NOR BAATH PARTY COMMAND HAVE AGREED TO PAST REQUESTS FOR MEETINGS WITH CONGRESSIONAL VISITORS. ALSO, AS CODEL WILL RECALL, APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT, IF GRANTED, IS NOT SET UNTIL
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LAST MINUTE. (PRESIDENT ASAD REMAINS THOROUGHLY ENGAGED

IN LEBANESE CRISIS AND WAS UNABLE TO RECEIVE RECENT CONGRESSIONAL VISITORS WAXMAN AND ABOUREZK.) IT WILL HELP IF CODEL HAS DISCUSSED HIS VISIT WITH SYRIAN AMBASSADOR KABBANI AND ENLISTED HIS SUPPORT IN REQUEST TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT. OF CALLS REQUESTED, MOST LIKELY ONE TO BE AVAILABLE WILL BE FONMIN KHADDAM, ASSUMING HE SUFFICIENTLY RECOVERED FROM WOUNDS RECEIVED DURING RECENT ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT TO HAVE RETURNED TO OFFICE.

3. KNOWING OF CODEL'S SPECIAL INTEREST IN STATUS OF SYRIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY, WE WOULD LIKE TO INFORM FOREIGN MINISTRY IN ADVANCE IF CODEL DESIRES ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICE AT SYNAGOGUE, MEET WITH JEWISH COMMUNITY LEADERS, ETC. PLEASE ADVISE.

4. CONTROL OFFICER FOR VISIT IS FSO JAMES HOOPER.
MURPHY

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NNN

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